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ANSWER TO DR. YERKES

by John Harwood

Dr. Robert M. Yerkes, founder of the Yerkes Laboratories of Primate Biology, enjoys debunking the Tarzan stories of Edgar Rice Burroughs.

In the Saturday Evening Post for August 2, 1947 there is an article by Greer Williams entitled "What We Can Learn From the Apes". The article deals with the work of Dr. Yerkes in his study of the habits of chimpanzees as related to the habits of Man.

He is mentioned as stating 3 instances in which Edgar Rice Burroughs is wrong in his portrayal of the characteristics of the apes in the Tarzan books. They are as follows:

1. Chimpanzees have no language.
2. They do not eat meat, except maybe birds.
3. They do not swim.

From a glance at these three statements it will be seen by Burroughs fans, that Dr. Yerkes can not have read very many of the Tarzan books. In the first place, Burroughs invented a new type of ape when he wrote about the anthropoid apes. The apes with which Tarzan is associated are a cross between the chimpanzee and the gorilla. They are supposed to have the intelligence of the chimpanzee combined with the strength of the gorilla. The Gorilla is about five foot eight to six feet tall while the apes of Tarzan are up to seven feet tall and more than a

match for a gorilla when fully grown.

As Burroughs has said at times, the anthropoid apes do not have a regular language. They communicate by guttural sounds and gestures which convey their meaning, but when Mr. Burroughs writes it down it is more convenient to translate it into a regular conversation instead of just translating the sounds and describing the gestures and letting the reader figure it out for himself.

In the books the apes do not make a regular habit of eating meat. It is only when they kill an enemy that they eat the flesh and it is usually as a ceremonial, a symbol of their victory over the foe. Tarzan needed fresh meat more than the apes, so when he first tasted it at one of the occasions when the apes had killed a foe he discovered he liked it so much he took to it as a steady diet.

Tarzan learned to swim when he was forced to leap into the water to escape the claws of Sabor when he was young. Up to that time he had hated the water. The apes never cared for it and did no swimming unless in the case of an emergency. Yerkes proved that chimpanzees can't swim by dropping

them into water, but as I said before the apes were of a different species than either the chimpanzees or the gorillas. In some of the books white men seeing the apes for the first time are startled to note how much more humanlike they are than the gorillas.

Aside from this, the article is very interesting, describing as it does, the doctor's experiences with the primates.

Editors note-

Mr. Burroughs has often said that he intends only to entertain with his stories. He expects no one to take them seriously or wants anyone to believe that man can talk with ape anymore than Kipling wanted his readers to believe that Mowgli could converse with all beasts. We fans of Mr. Burroughs "believe" in the characters he created because we enjoy them more that way. We believe in Tarzan, John Carter and the other E.R.B. characters in the same way that Mr. Doyle's fans believe in Sherlock Holmes and have even offered proof of his existence. The world of fantasy offers unlimited sources of entertainment and Mr. Burroughs is the greatest imaginative entertainer of them all.

Artist Hogarth is now drawing both the daily and the Sunday Tarzan strips. The daily strip is now running a picturized version of "At the Earth's Core". It may seem strange that the Pellucidar series are being printed in cartoon strip form under the Tarzan title, but Jason Gridley is narrating the adventures of David Innes at the earth's core to the ape-man. Tarzan, himself, is the star of the fourth story in the Pellucidar series, so the series are not really out of place appearing in the Tarzan strip.

September 1st was Mr. Burroughs birthday. In behalf of all Burroughs fans the Bulletin wishes him the happiest of birthdays and many, many of them. Good luck and God bless you, Edgar Rice Burroughs.

BOOK RE-VUE

by Maurice B. Gardner

In "Tarzan and the Foreign Legion", Edgar Rice Burroughs strikes a higher note in entertainment than ever in his 36 years of writing fiction. Though it has been 8 years since the last Tarzan book, (Tarzan the Magnificent, Sept. 1939), this new book is the top notch Tarzan of the entire 22 that have been published. It has been revealed for the first time that Tarzan has acquired perpetual youth, and from the manner of the telling, one might assume the author has likewise done so. The writing of the new Tarzan story reveals Mr. Burroughs has a keen insight, and his ever present ability of plot structure makes the book the greatest straight adventure of his 56 titles.

The action of the book takes place in the Netherland East Indies, far from Tarzan's domain; but it is to be assured wherever Tarzan is, there is plenty of fast action, especially when the Japs are invading that large island during the recent war. Substitutes of his old time friends and enemies are present, in addition to the tiger, whom the ape-man subdues in record time.

THE LOVELY LADY, a B-24 Liberator, is on a photographic mission over Sumatra with Col. Clayton aboard. None of the Liberator's crew know that he is Tarzan. Only when they are forced down in the jungle are they aware the English "Doc" is someone to be admired, for in primitive fashion he furnishes them food and teaches them how to get along in their precarious position, for Japs are ever present.

Two of the crew are woman haters, but the rescue of Corrie van de Meer, and the advent of Sarina, grand-daughter of a Borneo headhunter and a roving Dutch captain, keeps the readers romantic interest unflagged. The humor and repartee of the surviving members reveals that Mr. Burroughs has not patrolled the Pacific as a war correspondent in vain, Cont. page 4

The UNWRITTEN STORIES of E.R.B.

by John Harwood

Have any of you fans ever read a book by Edgar Rice Burroughs and come across a passage that aroused your interest to such an extent that you said to yourself, "Why doesn't Burroughs let us hear more about this?"

I have often had this experience. This article is to let you in on a few of the ideas for other books that have passed through my mind.

You all remember, of course, when Tarzan first visits Opar in "The Return of Tarzan". In one room he notices that there are golden tablets set into the walls. These tablets were covered with hieroglyphics.

Would it be possible that these tablets contained the history of Opar and the mother continent of Atlantis? Why not have the book start off with Tarzan and some archaeologist, maybe Erich von Harben, arriving at Opar. Tarzan persuades La to let Ehrich study the tablets. As he slowly deciphers the writing on the tablets we see...

A warrior of Atlantis falls in love with a priestess of the Sun. As a punishment for this sacrilege they are banished to the colony of Opar. Just as the ship sails out of the harbor, the earthquakes which have been occurring for several years break into renewed fury. Buildings start crumbling, the mountains start tumbling and the ship has a hard time getting away. A few days later Nature really lets go and as the continent vanishes the resulting waves toss the ship up on the African coast killing all but the warrior and the priestess. After many adventures they finally reach Opar where an official, who has arrived ahead of them by another ship, has them sentenced: the priestess to serve in the temple, never to see any other humans but the priests and priestesses of the Sun; the warrior to be assigned to the most dangerous active duty against the natives and the wild beasts of the jungle.

As decades pass, a new type of man appears on the scene. because of the fact that the only women in Opar are priestesses, the men of the lower classes start mating with captive female apes. This is forbidden by law, but gradually a new race appears in spite of the fact that all offspring of such a union are slain whenever discovered. These hybrids haunt the jungles beyond the city where they thrive in face of the expeditions sent out to exterminate them. The hybrids finally become great enough in numbers to overthrow the humans who are all but destroyed. Among the few who escape are the descendants of the unfortunate lovers we read about at the beginning of the story. The hybrids take over the temple and become as Tarzan found them centuries later.

Remember in "Tarzan the Untamed" the bones of the ancient Spanish fighting man and the map case which Tarzan found? The map case goes into Tarzan's quiver of arrows and that's the last we hear of it. The map can't be of the City of Lunatics because later on in the book one of the characters tells the story of the warrior of long ago. He fights his way into the city, stays long enough to obtain food and water and then fights his way out again. If he had used the map to guide him to the city he wouldn't have come alone if it were such a dangerous place. He couldn't have made the map after he left

the city because he was so closely followed by the party sent after him that he wouldn't have had the time. Besides, what would he be doing with the blank parchment and case when he would have needed more essential equipment?

Maybe this story also could start off with Tarzan and Ehrich von Harben discussing the ancient manuscript. As in the previous story Ehrich translates the writing and we go into the past again. I won't go into any details with this or the following ideas, just enough to let you use your own imagination. Maybe some Spanish party discovers a city in the jungles or deserts of Africa, get into trouble with the inhabitants and escape leaving one of their number behind. The man left behind would stay there for several years before he escapes. Before he escapes he writes down his experiences and makes a map of the city. He does this while the events are still fresh in his mind so that he will be able to relate as much as possible when he returns home. Possibly the city might be the City of Gold and the story would tell of how the people became split into two communities: the City of Gold and the City of Ivory.

In "Tarzan the Magnificent" Burroughs hints at a story in which Tarzan prevents a war by investigating rumors that an European power is trying to bribe the natives to disloyalty to another power. What happens? Tarzan doesn't conduct investigations just by asking questions and receiving answers. That's why Tarzan is so popular with readers all over the world. Again I ask "What happens?" Wouldn't you like to know.

Getting away from Tarzan, how about an adventure of David Innes on the moon of Pellucidar? It would be easy to get there, being only a mile above the surface of Pellucidar. How to get there? Simple! How about some kind of bird or a Trojan or even a Makar? Think of some of the interesting questions Burroughs could answer. What would the inhabitants be like? Would they be small so that the moon would seem as big to them as the earth does to us, or would they be tall and thin because of the reduced gravitation. How would the gravitation effect anyone from the surface of Pellucidar? The light pull of the moon offset by the strong pull of Pellucidar only a mile overhead? The light pull of moon added to the strong pull of Pellucidar when a person is on the opposite side of the satellite?

Last, but very interesting to all fans of E.R.B. how would you like to read a biography or an autobiography about the creator of Tarzan?

These are only a few suggestions for Burroughs books. Maybe you have better ideas of your own. Why not share them with the readers of the Burroughs Bulletin? Send them in.

Book Review continued - - -

for he has caught the spirit of youth that rings true to life.

But what is most amazing is the seemingly new Tarzan that battles his way through odds in the book. There is a magnetism that words can hardly convey in a review of this new book, and only through a thorough reading of it, can one who is familiar with the adventures of the ape-man, realize just

what I mean.

There is not a dull line in the entire book and one's interest is magnetized with the turning of each page until the last, and if a reader who enjoys good, straight adventure books doesn't wish the book could go on and on, then he must indeed be wearied of life itself.

The illustrations by John Coleman Burroughs are excellent! "Tarzan and the Foreign Legion" is a truly great book!